

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 115443

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA/HHEILSNIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115443

ATTENTION MR. JAMES L. CARLIN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-CAPTION OMITTED

FOL REPEAT BANGKOK 13351 ACTION SECSTATE 11 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13351

FOR: JIM WILSON, D/HA/ORM, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXPANDED INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 109782

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR OBSE
VATIONS IN REFTEL AS TO NEED
FOR UTMOST COOPERATION FROM UNHCR AND RTH IF EXPANDED PAROLE
TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY AND QUICKLY. WHILE WE MAY NEED SOME HELP,
I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE REFUGEE SECTION AND ICEM WILL BE ABLE
TO SUSTAIN BOTH A RAPID PRODUCTION OF A NUMBERS AND, AS SPONSOR-
SHIP VERIFICATIONS ARE RECEIVED, AN OUT-PROCESSING RATE OF
800 REFUGEES A WEEK. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS ON WHICH
WE WILL NEED RTG AND UNHCR COOPERATION. SO FAR BOTH PARTIES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 115443

HAVE IN GENERAL BEEN FLEXIBLE AND COOPERATIVE. BELOW SOME OF
THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FACING THE PROGRAM ARE OUTLINED.

2. SPONSORSHIP VERIFICATIONS: REFTEL SERVES AS A

REMINDER THAT EMBASSY AND ICEM MUST SHOW A SIGNIFICANT RATE OF DEPARTURES IN JUNE. THE ICEM SYSTEM SHOULD BE CAPABLE IN JUNE OF MOVING 400-500 RESUGEES A WEEK, PROVIDED THAT SPONSORSHIP VERIFICATION CABLES ARRIVE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS DURING THE MONTH OF M6. AFTER THIS COMMENCING JULY, THE SYSTEM WILL BE CAPABLE OF OUR EARLIER PROJECTION EXCEPT THAT THE LATE START OF THE PROGRAM MEANS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUILD TO THE 800 A WEEK RATE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE, AS WE HAD HOPED. WHILE THE SYSTEM FOR MOVING REFUGEES AT THAT RATE IS LARGELY IN PLACE, I AM WATCHING CLOSELY TWO KEY ISSUES:

AM TRANSIT CENTER: AS YOU KNOW, THE RTG HAS PROVIDED A DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE HOSTEL WITH CAPACITY OF 300-400. THIS SUPPLEMENTS THE 150 SPACES WHICH THE US PROGRAM IS GUARANTEED AT THE EXISTING TRANSIT CENTER. NOW THAT THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPROVED, I INTEND TO ASK UNHCR AND THE RTG FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY SO THAT THE ICEM WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP ON HAND IN BANGKOK 800 TO 1000 REFUGEES. THIS WILL ENABLE ICEM TO RESTOCK THE TRANSIT CENTER SEVERAL TIMES EACH WEEK AND ALLOW THE MAXIMUM OUT-FLOW ON EVERY AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL FLIGHT. I HAVE ALREADY PERSONALLY APPROACHED THE RTG IN AN ENDEAVOR TO GET AN ADDITIONAL TRANSIT FACILITY ON LINE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. OUR FIRST PREFERENCE IS FOR THE IMMIGRATION JAIL, WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE ORIGINAL TRANSIT CENTER IN WHICH WE HAVE 150 SPACES. WE HAVE ALREADY ASKED (BANGKOK 11706) FOR AUTHORITY TO MAKE SOME MINOR REPAIRS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROVIDED TRANSIT CENTER. REQUEST THIS AUTHORITY IN CASE UNHCR AND RTG FAIL TO COME TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVING THE DRAINAGE AND INSTALLATION OF SHOWERS. UNHCR-FUNDED REPAIR WORK IS ALREADY GOING ON BUT THERE WILL BE CLEAR LIMITS TO THEIR DESIRES TO IMPROVE THE FACILITY, AND RTG, HAVING PROVIDED A RENT-FREE TRANSIT CENTER, FEELS THAT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 115443

B. USE OF FOREIGN CARRIERS: IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN OUT-FLOW OF 800 PER WEEK I WOULD REQUEST YOUR CONCURRENCE IN ICEM USING FOREIGN CARRIERS WHEN US CARRIERS ARE UNABLE TO HANDLE THE FULL LOAD. EVEN WITH THIS AUTHORITY, MY ESTIMATE IS THAT AMERICAN CARRIERS WILL RECEIVE ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE TOTAL REFUGEE PASSENGER LOAD. THIS AUTHORITY HAS ALREADY BEEN REQUESTED IN BANGKOK 9877.

C. STEAMLINED MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM CAMPS TO BANGKOK TRANSIT CENTER: ICEM HAS ALREADY WORKED OUT WITH THE RTG A SYSTEM FOR MOVING REFUGEES FROM THE NORTHEAST WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE TEN DAYS NOTICE TO MOI THROUGH UNHCR. THIS SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED STARTING THIS WEEK. THE CONCEPT CALLS

FOR THE STATIONING OF A THAI IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL AT THE ICEM/
UDORN OFFICE WHO WILL HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO RELEASE REFUGEES
FROM THE CAMPS TO ICEM WITHOUT TRANSMITTING NAMES FIRST TO
THE UNHCR AND MOI IN BANGKOK. THE UNHCR HAS DEMONSTRATED
FLEXILITY IN PERMITTING US TO CIRCUMVENT THE NORMAL PROCEDURES
IN THIS FASHION. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW HOW THE SYSTEM IS PRO-
CEEDING. ULTIMATELY, WE WILL REQUIRE THE SAME SORT OF
STREAMLINING IN THE REGION WHERE THE KHMER CAMPS ARE LOCATED.
PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR AN ICEM OFFICE TO BE SET UP IN THESE
AREAS IN ABOUT A MONTH WHEN THE FLOW OF SPONSORSHIPS CAN BE
EXPECTED.

3. LOWMAN AND ROSENBLATT ARE CONSIDERING OUR FUTURE PERSONNEL
NEEDS. WE ARE THINKING OF BRINGING MAC THOMPSON DOWN FROM UDORN
TO REPLACE LIONEL, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET FIGURED OUT WHAT STAFF
WILL BE REQUIRED BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR. WE WILL BE
IN TOUCH WITH YOU SHORTLY ON THIS SUBJECT. WHITEHOUSE

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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